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growth; or that the answer to Mr. Riddles's question, "What causes the production of 'down'?" is to be found in malnutrition of the individual.

J. A. A.

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

New Fossil Mammals from Egypt.—It was announced some time ago that the expedition of the American Museum of Natural History to the famous fossil beds of the Fayûm had been highly successful, and particulars of the results have been awaited with much interest. Professor Osborn has just issued a short paper¹ describing some of the more remarkable discoveries. Two new forms, unfortunately represented only by portions of the lower jaw, are so peculiar that their ordinal position remains uncertain. One of these is named *Ptolemaia lyonsi*, and is taken as the type of a new family Ptolemaiidae. It is even stated that it possibly represents a new order. The other, *Apidium phiomensis*, new genus and species, "was evidently a small omnivorous or frugivorous form with partly cuspidate teeth"; but at present its precise affinities are unknown. Two other fossils are described, representing new genera (Phiomys and Metaphiomys) of rodents, placed in the family Eomyidae.

T. D. A. C.

Errata: The title of the article by Professor George H. Parker in the September issue, p. 601, should read "The Origin of the Lateral Eyes of Vertebrates." The figure on p. 606 is inverted.

¹ *Bull. Am. Mus. N. Hist.*, XXIV, 265-272, March 25, 1908.